



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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Governor

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**For Immediate Release**  
October 6, 2003

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### **Environmental Notification**

#### **DEQ Reports Ozone Exceedances in the Baton Rouge Area**

(Baton Rouge) -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is reporting that ozone levels in the Baton Rouge area exceeded established federal standards on Saturday, October 4, 2003 and Sunday, October 5, 2003.

Ozone forms when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures on days with little or no wind. While ozone in the earth's upper atmosphere helps protect us from the sun's harmful rays, ground-level ozone is potentially harmful to human health. Ozone levels above 124 parts per billion (ppb) are considered violations of the 1-hour federal standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. On Saturday, October 4, 2003, the LSU air-monitoring station recorded exceedances of 127 ppb at 3 p.m., 137 ppb at 4 p.m. and 130 ppb at 5 p.m. On Sunday, October 5, 2003, the Baker air-monitoring site recorded exceedances of 138 ppb at 2 p.m. and 135 ppb at 3 p.m. The New Roads air-monitoring site recorded exceedances of 128 ppb at 2 p.m., 139 ppb at 4 p.m. and 129 ppb at 4 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to continue taking steps to prevent ozone formation and improve the overall air quality in the Baton Rouge nonattainment area that includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes.

(more)

Some of these steps are:

- Limit daytime driving and combine errands. Drive "emission-wise." Avoid prolonged idling and jackrabbit starts.
- Walk or ride a bicycle for short trips. Carpool or ride public transportation when it is possible.
- Refuel your vehicle in the cooler evening hours. Don't top off your tank. Make certain your gas cap seals tightly. If it is missing, buy a new one.
- Defer mowing grass until late evening or the next day.
- Avoid use of all gasoline-powered equipment such as chain saws, garden equipment, outboard motors, off-road or other recreational vehicles. If you must use such equipment, wait until after 7 p.m.
- Postpone chores that use oil-based paints, varnishes and solvents that produce fumes.
- If you must barbecue, use an electric starter instead of starter fluid.
- Maintain your vehicle to minimize pollutant emissions and maintain fuel efficiency.
- Conserve energy in your home.
- Spread the word by telling family, friends, co-workers and neighbors about ozone action days.

Additional information about current air quality in the Baton Rouge area is available online from the DEQ web site at [www.deq.state.la.us](http://www.deq.state.la.us) and [www.brcleanair.org](http://www.brcleanair.org). Or call 225-219-3543 for more air quality information.